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**Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: assessment of the progress made within the United Nations system, through the conference reviews, in the promotion of an integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields**

**Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits**

## Assessment of the progress made within the United Nations system, through the conference reviews, in the promotion of an integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

**Report of the Secretary-General**

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*Summary*

The present report aims at assisting the Economic and Social Council, at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2000, in carrying out an assessment of the progress made within the United Nations system, through the conference reviews, in the promotion of an integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields.

Based on an examination of lessons learned from the five-year reviews of conferences conducted thus far, the report makes a number of proposals to assist the Economic and Social Council in its guidance to its subsidiary bodies with respect to the upcoming 10-year reviews of the conferences of the 1990s as well as in further enhancing its own work on conference follow-up. The report also discusses progress in implementing the conferences in a more integrated and coordinated fashion at national and international levels, and makes a number of suggestions for ensuring that the United Nations system provides enhanced support in this regard.

# Contents


| | | Paragraphs | Page |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Introduction | 1–3 | 4 |
| I. | Improving the follow-up to conferences: lessons learned from the five-year reviews | 4–47 | 4 |
| | A. Lessons learned from the five-year reviews | 5–31 | 4 |
| | 1. Modalities, scope and timing | 5–10 | 4 |
| | 2. Overlapping consideration of cross-cutting issues and conference goals | 11–12 | 5 |
| | 3. Rooting the reviews in national and regional experiences and technical assessments | 13–19 | 6 |
| | 4. Involving United Nations system organizations more extensively in the conference reviews | 20–27 | 7 |
| | 5. Maintaining the momentum of civil society's involvement | 28–31 | 8 |
| | B. Improving the follow-up and review of the conferences | 32–47 | 9 |
| | 1. Ways to improve the conference reviews | 32–34 | 9 |
| | 2. Other ways to further improve conference follow-up by the Economic and Social Council | 35–47 | 10 |
| II. | Progress in the development of an integrated approach to conference implementation | 48–75 | 11 |
| | A. Persistent challenges of integration and policy coherence | 48–57 | 11 |
| | 1. Continued commitment to an integrated approach | 48–49 | 11 |
| | 2. Progress in integrated strategies | 50–57 | 14 |
| | B. Deepening the United Nations system's efforts towards collaboration in achieving common conference goals | 58–75 | 15 |
| | 1. Ensuring coherence between economic, social and environmental aspects | 59–63 | 15 |
| | 2. Filling the gap between conference outcomes and country assistance programmes | 64–70 | 16 |
| | 3. Integrating the regional dimension | 71 | 17 |
| | 4. Mobilizing partnerships and participation | 72–75 | 17 |
| Annexes | | | |
| I. | Recent reviews of conferences: selected characteristics | | 22 |
| II. | Upcoming reviews of conferences | | 26 |
| III. | Examples of quantified goals and targets adopted by international conferences of the 1990s and their five-year reviews | | 28 |

## Introduction

1. Since 1995, the Economic and Social Council has made it one of its major goals to promote an integrated and well-coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the major United Nations conferences of the 1990s. For a number of years, the Council has adopted a set of important decisions to draw together in a coherent manner the outcomes of the conferences and define the broad orientation and modalities for the United Nations system — and, in many cases, the international community at large — with respect to supporting in an integrated and coordinated fashion the achievement of common conference goals at global, regional and national levels.

2. The Economic and Social Council decided, at its substantive session of 1999, to take stock of this five-year effort, and to assess, at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2000, the progress made within the United Nations system, through the conference reviews, in the promotion of an integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields as a possible contribution to the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations (Council resolution 1999/55 and Council decision 1999/281).

3. The present report aims at supporting the review of the Economic and Social Council. The first section examines the five-year review processes held thus far[1] to draw lessons for improving the preparations of the upcoming reviews of conferences and follow-up to conferences in general. The second section highlights progress being made towards achieving a more integrated approach for implementing the outcomes of the conferences of the 1990s. The report has been prepared in close cooperation with United Nations system organizations.[2]

## I. Improving the follow-up to conferences: lessons learned from the five-year reviews

4. In view of the Economic and Social Council's role in promoting a coordinated and integrated follow-up to conferences in support of the General Assembly's overall responsibility, the present section aims to assist the Council in guiding the preparations of the upcoming reviews of conferences and in improving the follow-up to conferences in general, based on experience gained in the five-year reviews conducted thus far. It takes a fairly broad approach by examining aspects that, although they do not fall under the direct supervision of the Council, are decided upon based on proposals of the Council's functional commissions and the Council itself.

### A. Lessons learned from the five-year reviews

#### 1. Modalities, scope and timing

5. The modalities and scope of the five-year reviews have varied considerably from one conference to another. For the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the General Assembly undertook an overall review of progress in the implementation of their respective outcomes, at special sessions.[3] The Secretary-General reported to the Assembly at its fifty-first session on progress made towards achieving the goals of the World Summit for Children, based on a mid-decade review. For the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, the five-year review was conducted by the Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council, and the Assembly. For the Jomtien World Conference on Education for All, a mid-decade conference was held in Amman in 1996, and the 10-year review recently took place at the World Education Forum in Dakar.

6. The first issue that arises from the reviews of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the International Conference on Population and Development as well as from the ongoing reviews of the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women is that of their wide-ranging coverage. These reviews addressed virtually all aspects of the conference outcomes, ranging from the international enabling environment and other cross-cutting issues, to more specific sectoral aspects and emerging new challenges. Time was lacking both in the functional

commissions and in the preparatory committees to negotiate the draft outcomes. The fact that there was also a temptation in some reviews to reopen a number of issues agreed at the conferences, despite the commitment not to do so, put additional strains on the negotiations. At the same time, in a number of areas, the five-year span proved too short for the reviews to be based on an adequate assessment of whether policies for implementing conferences had been having an impact.

7. Still, the reviews identified some developments that needed to be addressed such as, in the case of the International Conference on Population and Development, problems of resources, the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) epidemic, and the need to deal with the causes of international and internal migration and urbanization and the resultant dislocations; and in the case of the five-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, international consensus was furthered on issues such as energy, transport and tourism which had not been directly addressed in Agenda 21.[4] The review of the World Summit for Social Development has recognized the need for collective action to offset globalization's negative social and economic consequences. The increasing inequality within and between countries, the importance of rehabilitating the public sector, and the impact of conflicts and crises on social development also emerged as new challenges.

8. For the World Summit for Children, on the other hand, the mid-term review was based on a more technical assessment of progress in achieving the goals of the Summit. This review was unlike the other reviews, in that the General Assembly adopted a short resolution (Assembly resolution 51/186 of 16 December 1996) reaffirming the Summit's commitments and calling for further efforts in areas where goals were not being met.[5]

9. It should be mentioned that quite a large portion of the regular budget and extrabudgetary funds are spent on the review processes, instead of on actual implementation process at the country level.

**Recommendations**

10. With regard to future reviews of conferences, the Economic and Social Council could invite its functional commissions to, at an early stage, (a) clearly identify the goals and scope of the review; and (b) ensure that the reviews' preparations focus on the core issues and critically address the impact of new developments and new challenges. A key concern should be the need to live up to the commitments made. The reviews should identify (a) lessons learned from the implementation of conference outcomes; (b) constraints encountered and ways to overcome the constraints; and (c) new and emerging areas that were not included in the conference outcome and need to be addressed.

### 2. Overlapping consideration of cross-cutting issues and conference goals

11. The five-year reviews have naturally addressed common themes and overarching conference goals, such as the enabling national and international environments for development (including financing, trade, technology and external debt), basic social services for all, poverty and employment, human rights and participation, and gender equality. The Economic and Social Council identified many of these common themes in 1995.[6] New challenges related to globalization and, in particular, trade and information technology, armed conflicts and the threats posed by HIV/AIDS have also been discussed in every review. However, the five-year reviews have not always built on each other in this respect. Their outcomes often repeat one another, and in some cases there are contradictions in approaches. In particular, some issues, albeit cross-cutting, have been lead themes of a particular conference, such as gender and poverty eradication, and thus it would be appropriate for all conference reviews to reflect the outcomes of those lead conferences, for example, the Beijing and Copenhagen conferences, or of their five-year reviews. This has not always been possible owing to timing but also owing to other factors. Cross-cutting issues such as the international enabling environment raise even more complex issues. In such cases, guidance should come from the conference that approached the issue from the widest perspective, as did the World Summit for Social Development, or from relevant deliberations in the central intergovernmental bodies such as the Council. This again has not always been the case.

12. In effect, the guidance developed by the Economic and Social Council since 1995 on many of the cross-cutting conference themes has not always fed into the reviews. For instance, the Council's

recommendations to ensure greater coherence between the development objectives agreed upon by the international community and the functioning of the international trading and financial system are not reflected with the same clarity in some of the conference reviews, as could have been the case.[7] Neither has gender been consistently mainstreamed in the five-year reviews thus far, although the Council's 1997 guidance on this topic provided principles and steps for doing so (agreed conclusions 1997/2)[8]. Section B provides recommendations for addressing these problems at intergovernmental level.

### 3. Rooting the reviews in national and regional experience and technical assessments

13. One lesson learned from the five-year reviews of the International Conference on Population and Development and of the World Summit for Social Development is that technical meetings and forums on specific issues can be very useful to enable dialogue and a more in-depth reflection on some programmes or policy aspects. At the same time, it is important to ensure that the outcomes of these meetings help to advance the consensus at the conference reviews themselves. Ways should be examined to ensure that the results of such expert meetings are brought into and fully used in the intergovernmental negotiating process.

14. National reporting on conference implementation is important to help countries assess and stimulate progress in implementing conference outcomes, as well as to allow exchange of experiences at regional and international levels. There are important differences in the level of national responses to each review process. Overall, while the main trends emerging from national reports and questionnaires were presented to the preparatory committees, some more specific developments that might have influenced the outcome of the five-year reviews were lost in the process of aggregation and analysis (see annex I, last column). National reports could be used more extensively in future conference reviews, together with additional studies and analysis. Overall, assessments of progress made in implementing conference outcomes need to be based on solid statistical data. It is also important that national reporting requested on each conference be clearly focused on a few main core issues. Important progress has been made within the system, particularly with respect to sustainable development as well as other areas,[9] as regards sharing information obtained through national reports and thereby limiting information requested from Governments. Yet, the Economic and Social Council's request to prepare a simplified format to be used by Governments in preparing information on a single subject or cluster of subjects is still valid.[10] Furthermore, national reports should help the countries in identifying where they need to strengthen their actions and where assistance would be required to build their capacity. In a number of countries, United Nations country teams supported the Governments in preparing an analysis of where the country stands in its follow-up to conferences, and of the effectiveness of institutional mechanisms for reviewing progress. Mechanisms should be found to ensure that national reports are fully used in determining programmes by the United Nations system in the countries.

15. Besides national reporting, several regional meetings were held by the regional commissions in preparation for the five-year reviews. The regional meetings were important milestones for the five-year review of the outcome of the Beijing conference, for instance, and produced relevant outcomes documents. In some cases, the commissions conducted in-depth analysis, based on the reports and analysis of Governments, and on common trends, priorities and strategies. Yet, there is scope for better reflecting regional and subregional dimensions in the reviews' final outcomes.[11] The question could be considered how the outcome of these meetings could be better integrated and if a review at the regional level could be a possible approach in a short-term review process of five years.

#### Recommendations

16. The Economic and Social Council could encourage the United Nations and organizations of the United Nations system as well as its functional commissions to organize technical meetings and expert groups on specific subjects in the context of the reviews of conferences. Such meetings should help to deepen the understanding of core issues of conferences and to build consensus for the reviews.

17. The Economic and Social Council could underscore that regional and national preparations of the 10-year reviews are critical and their outcomes should be fully used in the reviews.

18. The Economic and Social Council could invite the United Nations system, through the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ), to make further efforts to focus national reporting on each conference on a few main core issues. It could also encourage the United Nations system to pursue its efforts to share information obtained through national reports, thereby limiting information requested from Governments. The United Nations could be encouraged to develop a single web site on national reporting, divided by main themes.

19. The Economic and Social Council could recommend that national reports on conference follow-up be used in determining programmes by the United Nations system in countries, particularly in the framework of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the common country assessment (CCA).

### 4. Involving United Nations system organizations more extensively in the conference reviews

20. The involvement of the organizations of the system in the five-year reviews of conferences has varied, as has the extent of their collaboration. It appears to have been the most extensive for the review of Agenda 21 and of the World Summit for Social Development. For the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, several organizations provided reports on progress made with regard to various chapters of Agenda 21 within the context of the task manager system. The Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world" has been particularly proactive in mobilizing contributions and proposals of organizations of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies. The Committee made a series of pointed requests to obtain reports of organizations on well-identified areas.

21. Overall, however, there would seem to be scope for further deepening the involvement of the specialized agencies and the system at large in the reviews of conferences. In this regard, the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) at its fifteenth meeting (January 2000) suggested, in particular, that the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) should be involved in the review early on, by assessing progress in gearing the system towards overarching conference goals. It would also be important to involve intergovernmental bodies of United Nations agencies that have other mandates and programmes in the field addressed by the conferences.[12]

22. Also, to improve coordinated implementation and reporting within the United Nations system on conference follow-up, the task manager system could be used more systematically for reporting to the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions on the cross-cutting issues of the world conferences of the 1990s. It may be recalled that the model of task manager used for Agenda 21 entailed the delegation of authority to a specific United Nations organization for reviewing progress and lessons learned for each chapter or cluster of chapters under Agenda 21. The system has the advantage of committing the United Nations system through the delegation of responsibility to reporting on the conference, of recognizing the organizations' role and contributions and of streamlining issues, priorities and reporting. There has been some discussion among inter-agency bodies such as IACSD, CCPOQ and the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality (IACWGE) of expanding the system to include not only areas addressed by Agenda 21 but also relevant thematic outcomes of other conferences. Thus, ideally, a single organization or group of organizations would be in charge of reporting on a given cross-cutting area of conferences, such as resources, poverty reduction, health, education, or governance, to the various intergovernmental bodies, in cooperation with inter-agency bodies. It is also envisioned that the task manager system could be used for reporting on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), focusing on themes such as shelter, social development and poverty reduction, environmental management, economic development and governance.[13]

23. With regard to the World Summit for Children more specifically, the adoption of the goals for children has become increasingly widespread within the United Nations system, as the goals of the Summit have been endorsed and built upon by other conferences. Yet the level of participation of the system in the preparation for the Summit's review continues to vary from organization to organization, and the preparations for the 10-year review are still thus far very much viewed as a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) concern. The Economic and Social Council could help building stronger inter-agency support to that process.

At the same time, there are considerable advantages to having a lead agency in charge of a conference. This was evidenced by the lead role played by UNICEF in the five-year review of the World Summit for Children and by the lead role played by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) together with the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat in the process of the five-year review of the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development.

24. Finally, it may be mentioned that the process adopted by the World Food Summit foresees frequent reviews by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Committee on World Food Security, which is an intergovernmental body. This Committee provides reports to the Council on a quadrennial basis. A full-scale review is scheduled after 10 years in 2006.[14]

**Recommendations**

25. The Economic and Social Council could encourage its functional commissions to ensure that the United Nations system is involved at an early stage in preparing the reviews of conferences. The Council could encourage United Nations agencies that have mandates and programmes in the field addressed by the conferences to ensure that their governing bodies are extensively involved in the preparations of the review.

26. The Economic and Social Council could encourage its functional commissions that have not yet done so, as well as the Commission on Human Settlements, to consider making greater use of the task manager system for reporting on conference themes, when relevant for a topic to be reviewed. The Council could furthermore invite ACC and its subsidiary machinery to develop proposals on the possible use of the task manager system for reporting on a broader range of cross-cutting conference themes.

27. The Economic and Social Council could encourage the Executive Board of UNICEF to look at ways to ensure that United Nations system organizations and the specialized agencies cooperate closely in the 10-year review of the World Summit for Children.

### 5. Maintaining the momentum of civil society's involvement

28. Civil society has participated in an extensive manner in the five-year reviews of the conferences, although not as extensively as it did in the conferences themselves (see also annex I).[15] At the same time, the nature of participation has evolved and has become more effective in several cases, both in intergovernmental meetings and at national level. Ensuring a broad input in the reviews by civil society including the private sector is important so that these reviews can draw upon diversified experiences as well as new ideas and proposals. It is also important to maintain the momentum generated at the conferences for involving civil society in the work of the United Nations and the implementation of the conferences. This is all the more necessary since the conferences, in particular the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), identified very specific responsibilities to be carried out by civil society and local authorities. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its follow-up continue to be at the forefront with regard to the participation of major groups. Lessons may also be drawn from the five-year review of Beijing on how to use the Internet for involving civil society. Ten thousand individuals originating from more than 120 countries (42 per cent of participants were from developing countries) participated in the global on-line working groups held by WomenWatch on the implementation of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action.[16] The results were conveyed to the preparatory committee for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.[17]

29. The Economic and Social Council should consider involving more systematically actors of civil society and particularly the private sector in its own work on conference follow-up at the high-level and coordination segments. Many efforts have been made to ensure that civil society organizations contribute to the work of the Council through panel discussions, and participation in the informal meetings of the Council as well as at its high-level segment, but this could be made more systematic.

**Recommendations**

30. The Economic and Social Council could invite its functional commissions and the United Nations system

to further support the involvement and participation of civil society, local authorities and the private sector in the upcoming conference reviews, looking at the experience gained in the context of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

31. The Economic and Social Council could consider ways and means of enabling civil society, local authorities and the private sector to contribute more systematically to the Economic and Social Council's discussions at the coordination or high-level segments such as on-line dialogue and the provision of written contributions.

## B. Improving the follow-up and review of the conferences

### 1. Ways to improve the conference reviews

32. The challenge of reviewing conference implementation is of a dual nature. On the one hand, it requires pursuing an integrated and coordinated approach with a focus on common overarching conference goals. On the other hand, it also requires maintaining the identity and integrity of each conference by conducting a focused review as a means to stimulate progress in the core areas covered by conferences. In addition, there is a need to put to full use, in the conference reviews, each level of the three-tiered structure for conference follow-up, so that both the functional commissions and the Economic and Social Council support as effectively as possible the General Assembly in exercising its overall responsibility for ensuring the implementation of conference results and facilitating and reviewing progress achieved. The functional commissions should continue to exercise their primary responsibility in follow-up and review of the conference for which they have the primary responsibility. The Council needs to pursue and deepen its work in addressing common conference themes and in coordinating conference follow-up and to ensure that its guidance in this area is taken into account in the conference reviews.

33. The modalities of the 10-year reviews are still to be established for a number of the conferences, with the exception of the World Summit for Children and the 10-year review of Agenda 21 for which the proposals of the Commission on Sustainable Development are before the Economic and Social Council (see annex II). Consequently, the Council still has the possibility of recommending to the General Assembly the adoption of a more effective and harmonized approach for the review of other conferences. To do so, the Council could invite its functional commissions to examine the following means of improving conference follow-up at intergovernmental level:

(a) One option might be to hold a single "10-year event" to review the conferences in a sequential manner,[18] be it an international conference or a special session of the General Assembly. Such a single event would be the culmination of a preparatory process encompassing the functional commissions and other relevant intergovernmental bodies, which would address core issues, as well as the Economic and Social Council, which would focus on cross-cutting issues;

(b) A second option might be to cluster the review of the implementation of several programmes of action found to be closely related at a special session of the General Assembly or other event. For example, the reviews of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States could be reviewed together. Similarly, the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women could be reviewed together in a separate cluster;

(c) A third option might be to stagger the follow-up processes so that there would be only one conference review in any given year. In this regard, the occurrence, for instance, in the same year of the 10-year reviews of the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women would be avoided;

(d) As a fourth option, 5-year conference reviews and appraisals could in the future be carried out by the functional commissions themselves, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly while special sessions of the Assembly or conferences would take place only for 10-year reviews. Indeed, it may be noted that the practice of holding special sessions of the General Assembly to review the implementation of conferences after five years is fairly recent.[19]

34. In reviewing these various options, the commissions should consider ways and means of

ensuring that they are well equipped for conducting their follow-up and monitoring of conference implementation. No matter what option is ultimately chosen, greater efforts should be made to ensure that, as the Economic and Social Council decided in 1995, the functional commissions focus on the core aspects of the conference of which they are in charge,[20] while at the same time cooperating with one another and with the Council on issues that cut across the outcomes of the conferences and their five-year reviews. It may be noted that there has already been significant progress towards this more focused approach.[21]

### 2. Other ways to further improve conference follow-up by the Economic and Social Council

#### (a) Role of the Economic and Social Council in examining cross-cutting conference themes

35. Irrespective of the manner in which the 10-year conference reviews will be conducted, a key message that can be drawn from the experience of the 5-year reviews is that the Economic and Social Council needs to continue to address cross-cutting conference goals, at both its coordination and high-level segments. It is particularly important that the Council continue to address the means to implement the conferences of the 1990s, in particular the building of an enabling environment at international level through enhanced international cooperation, increased and more effective use of official development assistance (ODA) and more coherent policies. This should help to affirm the crucial importance of international cooperation for achieving conference goals in the poorest countries, and to stimulate harmonized concrete efforts in this regard. Indeed, agreement at a single intergovernmental forum on a common set of critical elements of the enabling environment both at the national and at international level, including aspects related to human rights, governance, and social cohesion, would be of key importance and help to free time in the functional commissions to advance on sectoral aspects.[22]

36. The Economic and Social Council also has a role in ensuring that each conference follow-up and review, in addition to addressing individual core issues, also consider cross-cutting themes and the impact that the conference has on these goals.

37. Furthermore, the Economic and Social Council would need to examine the new challenges identified by the reviews that affect virtually the whole range of conference goals. This would help to ensure that these challenges are addressed in a consistent manner. In this regard, the functional commissions should bring to the Council's attention these new challenges that are additional to the ones already identified by the conferences.

38. For example, the preparatory process for the review of the World Summit for Social Development highlighted the fact that serious impediments to social development have increased, such as malnutrition, hunger, diseases, especially the HIV/AIDS pandemic, illicit drug problems and crime, ethnic and religious intolerance. The Economic and Social Council should also continue to address these major problems, which affect progress towards other conference goals. In the past, it has taken important steps to address HIV/AIDS, particularly by devoting a session to this issue. Furthermore, the Council, responding to the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, also recommended that Member States consider drug control as a cross-cutting issue in the context of coordinated follow-up to conferences.

39. In addition, the Economic and Social Council should help to maintain the focus on disaster preparedness, mitigation and recovery as well as on the impact of conflicts on conference goals. In this regard, efforts to link with the Security Council, ACC and other actors should be pursued. The Council should continue to give attention to goals related to conference follow-up at its humanitarian affairs segment.

40. The Economic and Social Council might need to meet to address in a timely manner major developments affecting conference goals. It has started to do so, *inter alia*, on such issues as the AIDS pandemic and Mozambique, and through its meetings with the Bretton Woods institutions; but it could do so for a broader range of issues.

41. Overall, the Economic and Social Council has devoted considerable time and efforts to bringing about a more integrated and coordinated approach to conference follow-up processes. It would now need to deepen its contribution on the substantive side and to help promote more coherent substantive approaches to common issues.

**(b) Possible role of the Economic and Social in reviewing the quantified goals agreed at the conferences of the 1990s**

42. There is a growing sense that the identification of a clear set of quantified goals and benchmarks is useful to help Governments and the United Nations system implement conference outcomes in an integrated manner.[23] A number of quantified goals emerged from the conferences of the 1990s in the area of basic social services for all. The five-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development recommended interim benchmarks to measure progress in achieving goals (annex III gives example of such goals). Yet these goals would need to be complemented by goals in the area of finance for development — including the already agreed targets for ODA — and other aspects crucial for an enabling international environment. The Economic and Social Council could encourage the further development of quantified goals relating to conference objectives, and undertake to monitor progress towards achieving agreed goals and targets.

43. Section I concludes by noting that the five-year reviews helped to achieve considerable progress that will certainly help to boost the implementation of individual conferences. Yet, further efforts are needed to ensure that this process is conducted in a more integrated and coordinated fashion, leading to decisive, mutually reinforcing progress at national level and on cross-cutting conference themes. Notwithstanding the need to enhance conference reviews at intergovernmental level, a key challenge is to stimulate progress in implementing conference goals at national level, by Governments working in tandem with civil society partners and, often international organizations.

**Recommendations**

44. The Economic and Social Council could consider inviting its relevant functional commissions to review options and modalities for future conference reviews as spelled out in paragraph 33 above and to report on the outcome of this discussion to the Council at its substantive session of 2001.

45. The Economic and Social Council could reiterate that it will monitor the cross-cutting themes of the conferences of the 1990s and the new common challenges emerging from the five-year reviews at its coordination and high-level segments.

46. The Economic and Social Council could decide to monitor progress towards quantified goals and targets agreed at the conferences of the 1990s and their five-year reviews, based on an annual report prepared by the Secretary-General taking into account work in the Statistical Commission and other bodies.

47. The Economic and Social Council could invite the international community, and particularly the General Assembly in the context of the preparations of the 2001 high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development, to agree on further quantified targets related to the building of an international enabling environment for development.

# II. Progress in the development of an integrated approach to conference implementation

## A. Persistent challenges of integration and policy coherence

### 1. Continued commitment to an integrated approach

48. At the conferences of the 1990s, a broad consensus emerged that conference goals and, generally, development should be pursued based on an integrated and comprehensive approach. This has also been a guiding principle of the Economic and Social Council's efforts to coordinate the implementation of the conferences of the 1990s (these efforts are recapitulated in the box).

49. The five-year reviews showed that there continues to be generally strong political will to take an integrated approach to conferences goals. Efforts are being made at national level as well as internationally to integrate economic, social and environmental goals in gender-sensitive policy-making.[24] However, much remains to be done to bring about real integration among policies and programmes, at the national level and in international development cooperation.

**Highlights of the Economic and Social Council's efforts thus far to coordinate the follow-up and implementation of conferences and summits of the 1990s**

When it launched its major effort to coordinate the follow-up and implementation of the conferences of the 1990s by the United Nations system, the Economic and Social Council emphasized that, while each conference had its thematic unity, a coordinated follow-up implied that the major conferences should be viewed as interlinked and contributing to an integrated framework of and a global partnership for development.

With its agreed conclusions 1995/1 of July 1995, the Economic and Social Council engaged in a theme or goal-oriented approach to integrating the system's efforts to support Governments in implementing the conferences of the 1990s. In July 1995, the Council identified a series of goals common to all the conferences. By mid-2000, it will have addressed a good number of these themes. It has formulated in-depth guidance on gender mainstreaming, human rights, poverty eradication, the role of employment and work in poverty eradication from a gender perspective, and African development as well as on ways to foster an enabling environment for development, through trade and investment. In 2000, it will discuss "Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy" and human settlements. On each of these topics, it has provided policy and operational guidance to the United Nations system and — in many cases — to the international community at large. This issues-based guidance was supplemented by the Council's regular examination of the coordinated follow-up to conferences, *inter alia*, at a special dialogue meeting held in May 1998 with a broad range of representatives of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, which has enabled the Council to provide clear guidance to the United Nations system and its own subsidiary machinery on strengthening coordination and integration. A few main aspects of the Council's guidance are outlined here.

First, the Economic and Social Council has placed particular emphasis on working to ensure that the policies and approaches supported by the organizations of the United Nations system are more supportive of the broader conference goals. This need for coherence has been a main thrust in the Council's yearly debates among Governments and with the specialized agencies including trade and financial institutions. More particularly, the Council maintains a continuous dialogue with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which has deepened in recent years particularly at the Council's special high-level meetings with the Bretton Woods institutions and through frequent exchanges with these organizations' governing boards. It has taken steps to deepen its dialogue with governing bodies of funds, programmes and specialized agencies as well as with the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). Yet, these partnerships need to be further strengthened to bring about more systematic concrete impact.

Second, the Economic and Social Council has taken a series of steps to improve the cooperation and the sharing of tasks among its functional commissions. As a result, the functional commissions have started to focus increasingly on core issues relating to the conference for which they are responsible and have obtained input from other relevant bodies on related issues. This is particularly visible in the case of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Council has also directed the regional commissions to pursue conference follow-up on a systematic basis by, *inter alia*, enhancing their interaction with the rest of the United Nations system.

Third, the Economic and Social Council has made consistent efforts to promote a coordinated delivery of assistance to Governments by the organizations of the United Nations system. Three inter-agency task forces set up by ACC worked during 1996 and 1997 to develop a set of guidelines to ensure coherent support to countries' efforts in the areas of full employment, basic social services for all and an enabling environment for development. ACC also adopted general guidelines on the integrated and coordinated follow-up to conferences. The Council oversaw this work and ensured that helping the Government to coordinate conference implementation should be a key responsibility of the United Nations resident coordinator system. It has directed the resident coordinator system to use thematic groups on conference cross-cutting themes and the existing collaborative frameworks, including United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the common country assessment (CCA), for supporting Governments, at their request, in developing strategies for integrated conference follow-up. The Council also gave guidance to the subsidiary machinery of ACC on how to exercise their responsibilities in coordinating the follow-up to conferences.[a]

Finally, in July 1999, the Economic and Social Council took steps to advance the integration and cooperation in the area of basic indicators for the integrated conference follow-up. It made a set of recommendations to enhance international efforts to build national statistical capacity in developing countries, and to facilitate further harmonization and rationalization of basic indicators in the context of conference follow-up, as well as to further develop indicators relating to the means of implementation of the conferences of the 1990s. The Council has before it a progress report on the implementation of its guidance in this area (E/2000/60).

[a] More information on these aspects is contained in the reports of the Secretary-General on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (E/1998/19 and E/1999/65). The Economic and Social Council's most recent guidance is contained in its resolutions 1998/44 and 1999/55 and in its agreed conclusions adopted at its high-level segment and coordination segments.

### 2. Progress in integrated strategies

50. The five-year reviews also indicate that deeper efforts are needed to translate such an integrated approach into effective action through national action plans and strategies to implement conference outcomes.[25] Obviously, the primary responsibility for conference follow-up lies with the Government, while United Nations system organizations have a role in facilitation and support of Governments, provided at their request, in implementing conferences and integrating their efforts in this regard.

51. The five-year reviews do not give very clear indications as to the extent to which Governments have developed "cross-sectoral strategies" for the implementation of all conferences. They indicate that national strategies focus by and large on individual conferences, and on such overarching goals as gender, poverty, the environment, health and education.

52. The development of an integrated strategy is important to help countries set their own priorities and objectives among all of the goals identified by the various conferences. As national sustainable development strategies attempt to link the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development, they have the potential to serve as the basis for an integrated strategy to implement other conference goals. This was recognized by the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, which set the target date of 2002 for developing national sustainable development strategies.[26] However, thus far, it appears that, in many countries, there has been relatively limited progress in integrating economic, social and other areas in the context of national sustainable development strategies. Also, while economic and social dimensions figure prominently in most local Agenda 21 programmes, there are cases where these documents focus primarily on environmental issues, thereby limiting their potential to serve as a platform for the local implementation of other conferences such as the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat II), for instance. As Governments are working to develop sustainable development strategies by 2002, it is crucial to ensure that sustainable development strategies are effectively developed as a platform for a more integrated approach to conference goals.

53. With regard to other conferences, very few Governments have developed comprehensive strategies for implementing the World Summit for Social Development, as required in the Summit's outcome. Two thirds of the countries have developed poverty eradication strategies. Yet, while most poverty programmes identify a set of targeted interventions, they do not always define a global strategy, that is to say, a broader set of national policies, including macroeconomic and governance policies, that are pro-poor. Most poverty programmes do not pay enough attention to gender inequality as a major source of poverty and do not address the issue of environment and natural resources, even in countries where environmental degradation has a major impact on the poor.[27] The need to address the broader international context and its impact on poverty is not always recognized. Also, whereas a number of national action plans and strategies for implementing the Beijing Platform for Action refer to the need to mainstream gender in other policy areas, they rarely establish a clear linkage to strategies to implement other conferences.

54. Overall, the main challenges to integrated conference implementation continue to be the need to (a) effectively incorporate economic, social and environmental concerns in the design of policies nationally and internationally and (b) foster an enabling environment for development at national and international levels, particular ensuring greater consistency among macroeconomic, trade, aid, financial, social and environmental policies, so that all support agreed development goals.

55. The conferences recognized the crucial importance of international cooperation for helping developing countries to achieve conference goals. A key message running through the five-year reviews of conferences is that international support in the implementation of conferences has fallen far short of the commitments made at conferences. As regards the International Conference on Population and Development, for instance, international population assistance remains at only roughly 36 per cent of the $5.7 billion target agreed in Cairo as the international community's share in financing the programme of action.[28] Recent reports point to a continuing decline in ODA contributions.[29] These shrinking resources jeopardize the priorities identified by the conferences and leads to competition among them.[30] In addition to the Economic and Social Council's own efforts in this regard, the high-level international intergovernmental

event on financing for development to be held by the General Assembly in 2001 will be the occasion to address in a comprehensive manner the mobilization of financial resources for the full implementation of the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s and, as discussed above (paras. 41 and 46), to possibly agree on targets regarding the enabling environment for development.

**Recommendations**

56. The Economic and Social Council could invite Governments, in developing sustainable development strategies by 2002, to ensure that they address overarching conference goals such as poverty eradication, gender equality, and development of the poorest countries in an integrated manner.

57. The Economic and Social Council could call on Governments to mobilize resources for implementing conference goals and urge donor countries to meet the commitments made at the conferences of the 1990s and their five-year reviews regarding enhanced ODA and international cooperation. The Council could encourage the international intergovernmental event on financing for development to make concrete advances with respect to addressing in a comprehensive manner the mobilization of financial resources for conference implementation, and invite its functional commissions to use the outcome of that event in their work on conference follow-up.

## B. Deepening the United Nations system's efforts towards collaboration in achieving common conference goals

58. The five-year reviews highlight the fact that conferences have galvanized the United Nations system into action and cooperation. United Nations system organizations are now sharpening the focus of their activities, while realizing that the solutions to many of the problems are to be found outside their given sector of expertise. The need for an integrated approach pervades the strategies of organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Comprehensive Development Framework of the World Bank, the Poverty Reduction Strategy papers of the Bank and IMF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) mission statement and the new approach of the World Health Organization (WHO) to health and poverty. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to conferences are also very often a reality de facto, in the implementation by the United Nations system of programmes in such cross-cutting areas as education, health, the advancement and sharing of knowledge and water. The present section highlights a few areas where the United Nations system could further strengthen its support to Governments in implementing the outcomes of the conferences of the 1990s in an integrated manner.

### 1. Ensuring coherence between economic, social and environmental aspects

59. Cooperation between the United Nations system, the World Trade Organization and the Bretton Woods institutions is crucial to advancing conference goals in the area of social development, environmental protection, the building of an enabling environment for development and progress of the poorest countries. The five-year reviews of conferences recognized that the World Bank and IMF are strengthening their focus on conference goals, particularly on the social development dimension of structural adjustment;[31] but they also called on these institutions to further strengthen their support in implementing these goals and addressed many recommendations to them, ranging from the very general to the very specific. A number of further specific recommendations are being discussed in the preparatory process for the review of the World Summit for Social Development. As it continues to deepen dialogue with the Bretton Woods institutions, the Economic and Social Council should continue to play an important role in the debate on how these various recommendations are being put into practice with the support of the Bretton Woods institutions. Indeed, the ongoing review of the World Summit for Social Development has discussed the possibility that the Council might focus systematically on conference implementation at its special meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions — and, in many respects, the Council actually already does this.

60. The demonstrations that surrounded the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in Seattle highlighted the complexity of the interrelationships between trade and economic, social and environmental dimensions. In this regard, as outlined by the Secretary-General repeatedly, it is crucial that States implement the common standards that exist in the

social, environmental and other areas. ACC can also play an important role in prompting a collective response by the United Nations system to the challenges of globalization. ACC has discussed globalization for a year now. At its April 2000 session, it addressed the interlinkages between trade, environment and social dimensions. It encouraged the United Nations system to work together in mutually supportive ways to ensure that globalization worked towards poverty eradication and other conference goals, *inter alia*, through the building of networking arrangements. It is therefore important that the Economic and Social Council further deepen its dialogue with ACC on this topic. The Council should also further deepen its dialogue with the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), all the more so inasmuch as UNCTAD, at Bangkok, was called upon to play an important role in bringing a development perspective to globalization.

**Recommendations**

61. The Economic and Social Council could reaffirm that it will address, as appropriate, issues relating to the follow-up to the outcome of the conferences and their five-year reviews at its meetings with the Bretton Woods institutions.

62. The Economic and Social Council could consider holding a special meeting with UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization on progress towards goals agreed at conferences and their five-year reviews.

63. Likewise, the Economic and Social Council could consider organizing dialogue sessions with clusters of United Nations system organizations on specific themes relating to conference follow-up.

### 2. Filling the gap between conference outcomes and country assistance programmes

64. Although Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing conference outcomes in a coordinated and integrated manner at the country level, the United Nations system organizations support their work by ensuring that the conference outcomes serve as objectives for United Nations system programmes, particularly with respect to the different conference themes and/or sectoral areas. United Nations system instruments such as thematic groups on cross-cutting issues and the use of the lead agency concept have been very effective in supporting Governments in conference-to-conference follow-up but have not necessarily helped achieve an integrated approach. The United Nations system has consistently pursued coherence between a more integrated approach to country-level conference follow-up and programming of its operational activities for development through the introduction by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, the common country assessment (CCA) and the CCA Indicator Framework.[32] Already, in a number of countries, a CCA has provided a database and set of indicators to review progress on achieving conference goals; and UNDAF has provided a framework for aligning national priorities and conference programmes of action as well as for achieving a more integrated United Nations support to conference follow-up. Other country-level mechanisms such as round tables and consultative groups have fostered dialogue with and supported the involvement of other relevant actors in the follow-up to global conferences, and are becoming instrumental in effectively linking local development projects/programmes with policies and actions at the national and international levels. The Poverty Reduction Strategy papers (PRSPs) introduced by the World Bank and IMF and the Comprehensive Development Framework of the World Bank also provide new tools for strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in order to help Governments pursue poverty eradication and other conference goals.

65. Among these tools, there is the ACC material on basic social services, which helps country teams gain a better understanding of where each agency can bring its expertise to bear in support of poverty eradication. Other instruments include the UNDG girls' education strategy. A poverty action strategy is currently being designed by UNDG. The ACC guidance notes for the resident coordinator system are also being used to a certain extent as a framework for the translation of global goals into the agencies' national policies and operational activities.[33] For example, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has included them in the United Nations system materials provided to its country representatives for the implementation of the goals and plans of action of the international conferences. The United Nations Development Group Office (UNDGO) has included them on its web site, which is accessible to resident coordinators and United

Nations country teams, and in the CD-ROM on CCA and UNDAF guidelines that was also circulated to United Nations country teams.

66. A gap between conference outcomes and the objectives of the actual country assistance programmes still persists in some areas. Operational tools and methodological frameworks and models for their country-specific application are still insufficient.[34] As a result, cross-cutting themes and goals emerging from the global conferences have not been sufficiently integrated into programmes' priorities in a coherent manner, and steps still need to be taken to develop complementary and collaborative approaches within United Nations organizations to promoting the implementation of global targets linking specialized branches of the Governments, members of civil society and the international community.

67. The year 2000 five-year review exercise of individual conferences provides an opportunity to concerned United Nations system organizations to revisit programme priorities, identify obstacles, accelerate the implementation process and generally revisit national plans of action accordingly. One lesson learned so far, in the preliminary review, is that the establishment of a limited set of quality data to determine the achievements and gaps that may remain in the implementation of global conferences is a key element in the integrated implementation of conference action plans.[35] Another lesson is that the identification of linkages between conference goals facilitates the development of more integrated sectoral interventions.[36]

68. A more integrated support to United Nations international conferences and summits is expected to be further strengthened during 2000 when the conference indicators will be developed as part of the CCA Indicator Framework. UNDAF and CCA have the potential to become the main instruments for the system-wide integrated follow-up in the process of planning, programming and action at the country level. One of the tests for the effectiveness of these instruments in their upcoming evaluation in 2001 will be their capacity to translate the sum of conference outcomes into the objectives of actual development assistance programmes.

**Recommendations**

69. The Economic and Social Council might wish to re-emphasize the need to develop operational tools for conference follow-up at the country level that take into account the need to link follow-up to individual conferences, including the five-year reviews, to the integrated follow-up to all conferences.

70. The Economic and Social Council might also wish to encourage United Nations system organizations to continue to build on national data sets to develop key system-wide indicators related to global conferences and to link these efforts to country-specific poverty eradication initiatives.

### 3. Integrating the regional dimension

71. The need of a regional dimension for the implementation of conference goals at regional level has been recognized by the Economic and Social Council on previous occasions.[37] The United Nations regional commissions have complemented national efforts by organizing regional conferences and reviewing progress made at regional level, related particularly to the preparation for the five-year reviews of conferences. The Council's attention is drawn to the report on regional cooperation on the theme "Follow-up to major conferences and summits: exchanges of regional experiences" which is also before the Council.

### 4. Mobilizing partnerships and participation

72. In the recent past, the formation of "global policy networks" of international institutions, civil society and private sector organizations and national Governments has emerged as a powerful new way of mobilizing the support for common goals. The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) exemplifies what can be achieved through such partnerships. The Global Fund for Children's Vaccines, which GAVI launched in January 2000, should help to strengthen the delivery of vaccines in the poorest countries and the development of new vaccines. The International Partnership against AIDS in Africa, under the leadership of African Governments, is mobilizing unprecedented support to curtail the epidemic and address its impact on human and economic development. It is also promoting a more comprehensive and multisectoral response to the development challenges posed by the epidemic. Other examples include the Roll Back Malaria global initiative,[38] and, recently, the second Worldwide Water

Forum where safe drinking water supply and sanitation have been given highest priority by the various agencies, non-governmental organizations, Governments and donors who participated in developing a partnership and framework for future action.[39] The Secretary-General, in his report to the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations entitled "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century" (A/54/2000), has stressed that the United Nations system needs a more focused and systematic approach regarding its involvement in global policy networks.

73. Generally, there is a need to provide assistance for strengthening the capacities of Governments who request it — both central and local — and of their civil society partners for implementing conferences. Habitat II has mobilized the involvement of local authorities and civil society partners and has given a strong impetus to institution development and capacity building in the field of human settlement. Improvements of capacities of local governments to manage challenges of local participatory development will contribute to the achievements of many conference goals in a context of growing localization and globalization.

**Recommendations**

74. The Economic and Social Council could note the important contribution that global policy networks or alliances can make to implementing conference goals and encourage the United Nations system to become actively engaged in such networks and contribute to them, *inter alia*, through the use of modern information and communication technologies.

75. The Economic and Social Council could underscore the importance of building national capacities for implementing conference outcomes, and reiterate that capacity-building should be an explicit objective of programmes and projects supported by the United Nations system.

*Notes*

[1] Namely, those for the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The five-year reviews of the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women will be completed only in June 2000, and therefore are addressed by referring only to their provisional texts. Similarly, the review of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) will be conducted in 2001. References are made to the Jomtien World Conference on Education for All.

[2] Inputs were received from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Group Office (UNDGO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations University (UNU), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Universal Postal Union (UPU), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

[3] In the case of the World Summit for Social Development, the decision to hold a mid-term special session of the General Assembly was contained in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. The holding of a special session was envisioned in Agenda 21 (which stated that the Assembly could consider holding such a session no later than 1997) and the Habitat Agenda, but was not mentioned in the Beijing Platform for Action or in the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[5] It may be recalled that UNICEF is coordinating a global end-decade review of the progress made in implementing the shared goals for children reflected in the outcomes of the World Summit for Children (see table 2).

[6] See agreed conclusions 1995/1 of the Economic and Social Council (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/50/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 22) and the report of the

Secretary-General (E/1995/86) on coordinated follow-up to major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields.

[7] See the ministerial communiqué on market access of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 1998 of the Economic and Social Council submitted by the President of the Council (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3 and Corr.1 and Add.1), chap. IV, para. 5.

[8] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1 and Add.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

[9] Given that Governments must prepare periodic reports on their human rights treaty obligations, in relation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex), UNICEF analysed the declarations and plans of action of the major conferences and grouped these against the standards in the Convention. This provided a clear map of issues relevant to children signalled in each of the conferences, and provided direction to United Nations agencies, Governments and other partners for standard-setting and action flowing from the Conferences.

[10] Agreed conclusions 1995/1 of the Economic and Social Council.

[11] The report on regional cooperation on the theme "Follow-up to major conferences and summits: exchanges of regional experiences" is also before the Economic and Social Council.

[12] The Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) furthermore stressed the importance of early and timely contributions from the United Nations system to the preparatory process. It proposed that the reports of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly and the high-level segment of the Commission on Sustainable Development in the context of preparations of the 10-year review should not only focus on process-related issues but also highlight the main policy issues and main challenges in the area of sustainable development. The preparation of the critical trends report should be expedited and its results made public at an early stage so as to raise awareness about consequences of current unsustainable development tendencies (ACC/2000/1).

[13] More details are contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the Habitat Agenda (A/55/83-E/2000/62).

[14] See annex II and earlier reports on the integrated and coordinated follow-up to conferences, which also provide information on the Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems (FIVIMS) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Network on Rural Development and Food Security.

[15] For instance, 376 representatives of 153 non-governmental organizations participated in the five-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1999 and a few non-governmental organizations took the floor during the governmental meeting. (During the Cairo conference in 1994, more than 4,200 individuals and representatives of over 1,500 non-governmental organizations took part in the NGO Forum '94 held parallel to the conference.) For Beijing, over 5,000 representatives from 2,100 non-governmental organizations attended the conference and nearly 30,000 individuals attended the independent NGO Forum '95. It is estimated that 3,106 non-governmental representatives will participate in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

[16] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[17] See note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2000/PC/CRP.1) transmitting the summary of the WomenWatch online working groups on the twelve critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action.

[18] Such a single "10-year event" implies that some conference reviews would take place before, while others would occur after, their 10-year anniversary.

[19] In the past, the quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations world population conferences, for instance, were conducted by the Commission on Population and Development. The review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (*Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A) in 1990 were conducted by the Commission on the Status of Women.

[20] The Economic and Social Council in its agreed conclusions 1995/1 recommended that the functional commissions focus on the core issue relating to the conference for which they were responsible, and obtain inputs from other related bodies on related issues.

[21] Thus, further to the five-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development does not deal directly with those thematic areas of Agenda 21 that were developed by the outcomes of other conferences and accordingly, fall within the competence of other commissions of the Economic and Social Council such

as poverty, population and human settlements. For these issues, other relevant functional commissions report to the General Assembly through the Council on how their activities are contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21 and the programme for its further implementation. The Commission on the Status of Women increasingly cooperates with the Commission on Human Rights. The World Summit for Children, while not falling within the purview of a specific functional commission, benefits from having the Executive Board of UNICEF closely involved with focused monitoring of the follow-up. A number of reports are before the Council on the cooperation among functional commissions: see consolidated report on the work of functional commissions in 2000 (E/2000/__); and report on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and on cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions (E/2000/__).

[22] It may be recalled that the Economic and Social Council discussed issues of the enabling national and international environment in 1997 and 1998. In 1996, it had decided that it would discuss such issues, including the mobilization of resources, and that the functional commissions should focus their consideration on aspects that fell within their respective areas of competence (agreed conclusions 1996/1 on poverty eradication (see *Official Records of the General Assembly, 1996, Supplement No. 3* (A/51/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 2)).

[23] The experience of the World Summit for Children and its review show the usefulness of such goals. A message emerging from the examination of national reports on the review of the implementation of the outcome of the Beijing conference was that Governments and non-governmental organizations should cooperate to devise realistic targets and ways of measuring progress for all critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action.

[24] In regard to Agenda 21, it was noted that extensive efforts have been made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development by Governments and international organizations to integrate environmental, economic and social objectives into decision-making through the elaboration of strategies for sustainable development. The mid-term review of the implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development highlighted the fact that many Governments had taken steps to integrate population concerns into their development strategies. The preparatory process of the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development is indicating that there has been growing awareness of the need to reconcile economic and social policy. Governments have recognized the importance of making social advances an integral part of development strategy at the national and international levels, as well as of putting people at the centre of development efforts. Poverty eradication and employment promotion are increasingly placed at the centre of socio-economic development. National reports on the Fourth World Conference on Women suggest that the importance of a gender equality approach to policy-making is generally recognized. Policy makers have started to operate within the broad framework of sustainable human development, taking into account the need for equal opportunities and choices for women.

[25] Some nine different national action plans can be identified. The World Summit for Children called for national programmes of action (NPAs); the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, for national strategies for sustainable development, by 2002; the World Conference on Human Rights, for national action plans identifying steps for the promotion of human rights; the World Summit for Social Development, for comprehensive cross-sectoral strategies for implementing the outcome of the Summit as well as for national poverty eradication plans; the Fourth World Conference on Women, for national strategies or plans of action for implementing the Beijing Platform for Action; the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), for national plans of action and/or other relevant national programmes and actions to achieve the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development, as well as for local plans of action. As for the World Food Summit, it requested that national plans, programmes and strategies should be reviewed and revised as appropriate with a view to achieving food security consistent with the Summit's commitments. FAO undertook to prepare with Governments concerned "national strategies for agricultural development and food security: horizon 2000" for 150 developing and transition member countries of the organization (regional strategies and action plans were also prepared). Recently, at the World Education Forum in Dakar, countries agreed to prepare a comprehensive national Education for All (EFA) plan by 2002 (in the context of wider poverty reduction and development strategies).

[26] As stated in General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex, paragraph 24, sustainable development strategies are important mechanisms for enhancing and linking national capacity so as to bring together priorities in social, economic and environmental policies.

[27] UNDP, *2000 Poverty Report*.

[28] See report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2000/5 and Corr.1).

[29] See report of the Secretary-General on financial resources and mechanisms (E/CN.17/2000/2).

[30] For instance, the Habitat Agenda (*Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II) called for raising the priority of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development among donors and mobilizing their support for the plans of action developed by developing countries. The Beijing Platform for Action calls for a greater share of international financial assistance to be directed towards implementing the Platform for Action.

[31] See proposed outcome: revised text submitted by the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world": review and assessment of implementation (A/AC.253/L.5/Rev.2 (Part II), para. 37).

[32] See progress report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/192 for the operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council (E/2000/46/Add.1), for more details.

[33] The ACC second guidance note, along with the ACC inter-agency task forces established by ACC on basic social services for all, full employment and sustainable livelihoods, and an enabling environment for economic and social development, provides policy orientations and sets of guidelines.

[34] See the 1998 resident coordinator annual reports review conducted by UNDGO last year and presented to the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ).

[35] See the progress report on basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels (E/2000/60).

[36] For instance, UNFPA has made sustained efforts to identify linkages between population, poverty and environmental factors for integrated programming purposes in keeping with the International Conference on Population and Development. Many collaborative programmes are in place with UNFPA, UNICEF and UNESCO for the education of the girl child (see the 1999 report of the Executive Director of UNFPA to the Economic and Social Council (E/1999/47, sect. II). The Executive Board committed UNICEF repeatedly (1995-1998) to the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (*Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex) in the following three areas: women's and girls' rights, girls' education, and women's health, although the scope of the country programmes has been enlarged (see the 1999 report of the Executive Director of UNICEF to the Economic and Social Council, part one (E/1999/9)).

[37] Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1995/1 and Council resolution 1998/44.

[38] The initiative aimed at mobilizing partnerships and resources in order to reduce malaria mortality by 50 per cent by 2010, launched in 1998 by WHO, UNICEF, UNDP and the World Bank.

[39] The Forum was organized in The Hague in March 2000 by the Global Water Partnership and World Water Council.

# Annex I

## Recent reviews of conferences: selected characteristics

| | *Contribution of United Nations system organizations to the conference reviews* | *Technical meetings* | *Modalities of civil society's involvement in the review* | *National and regional preparations* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jomtien World Conference on Education for All (10-year review, World Education Forum) | World Bank, UNFPA, UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF sponsor the World Education Forum. They guided the assessment through an inter-agency steering committee and technical advisory groups at global and regional levels. ACC adopted a statement on the United Nations 10-year programme on girls' education which was presented at the World Education Forum. | Fourteen thematic studies on educational issues of global concern (for example, applying new technologies in education, demographic transition and education, donor contributions to EfA). | Some 300 participants attended the international consultation held in Dakar prior to the World Education Forum. Sixty non-governmental organizations participated in the World Education Forum. | A two-year Education for All assessment was conducted in 181 countries by national teams in coordination with advisory groups from sponsoring organizations. Country reports were examined at six regional conferences which adopted regional education action plans and made recommendations for the World Education Forum. |
| World Summit for Children (5-year review in 1996) | UNICEF was entrusted with supporting the implementation of the World Summit for Children and its review, in cooperation with other relevant agencies. Activities of UNICEF, ILO, WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO and other organizations to help implement the World Summit for Children were reflected in the review. | | | Sixty Governments carried out multiple cluster indicators surveys for monitoring World Summit for Children goals; additional data was collected through other surveys. UNICEF assisted national Governments and regional groups in undertaking both national and regional reviews of the Plan of Action for implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s and meetings. |
| United Nations Conference on Environment and Development | United Nations system organizations reported on sectoral/cross-sectoral issues of Agenda 21 in context of the IACSD task manager system; UNCTAD furnished a report on trade and environment and WHO on world health and the environment. ACC adopted a statement on sustainable development. | A number of expert groups on topics such as changing consumption and production patterns, financial issues, special measures for least developed countries, and indicators for sustainable development were organized by the United Nations, Governments and major groups. | The Commission on Sustainable Development (fifth session) held dialogue sessions with all Agenda 21 major groups that identified challenges and made recommendations. Fourteen thousand individuals representing major groups participated in the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly. | One hundred country profiles outlining progress in implementing Agenda 21 were prepared (half were submitted by Governments, half compiled by the Secretariat based on earlier reports submitted by Governments to the Commission on Sustainable Development). |

| | *Contribution of United Nations system organizations to the conference reviews* | *Technical meetings* | *Modalities of civil society's involvement in the review* | *National and regional preparations* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | ESCAP regional meeting on indicators of sustainable development for Asia and the Pacific; Summit Conference of the Americas on Sustainable Development organized by Fundación Futuro Latino America. |
| World Conference on Human Rights | United Nations system organizations submitted reports to contribute to the review process. The report furnished to the Economic and Social Council coordination segment was prepared in the framework of inter-agency consultations organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. | | The 1998 Global NGO Forum on the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (June 1998) submitted its final document as an input to the review as did a few other civil society organizations. | Forty-eight Governments furnished reports for the review. |
| International Conference on Population and Development | UNFPA played a major role in the five-year review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development together with the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat. The inter-agency Task Force on Basic Social Services for all organized the technical symposium on international migration. UNFPA organized seven round-table and technical meetings in preparation for the five-year review and the Hague Forum on the Operational Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development. Several United Nations system organizations collaborated in round tables and technical meetings. The Population Division prepared the quinquennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme | Three round-table meetings on (a) adolescent reproductive health, (b) reproductive rights and implementation of reproductive health programmes, women's empowerment, male involvement and human rights and (c) partnership with civil society. Four technical symposia: (a) international migration and development, (b) population ageing, (c) reproductive health services in crisis situations and (d) population change and economic development. | One hundred fifty-three non-governmental organizations (376 representatives) participated in the five-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development; three non-governmental organizations took the floor during the plenary meeting. A round-table meeting was held in Bangladesh in July 1998 on "partnership with civil society to implement the Programme of Action, International Conference on Population and Development". Civil society participated in round tables and technical meetings and in the Hague Forum which was preceded by three meetings, of parliamentarians, a non-governmental organization forum, and a youth forum. | Regional consultations were convened by the five United Nations regional commissions. UNFPA conducted a global field inquiry in 1998 to assess progress and constraints (114 developing countries and countries in transition). The Eighth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development contributed to the review. |

| | *Contribution of United Nations system organizations to the conference reviews* | *Technical meetings* | *Modalities of civil society's involvement in the review* | *National and regional preparations* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. UNFPA prepared the report on the international forum for the operational review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the report of the Secretary-General for the special session of the General Assembly containing draft measures for the further implementation of the Programme of Action. UNICEF 1995 Executive Board paper defined its follow-up to the Conference as did the 1998 report submitted to the Executive Board. | | | |
| Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States | United Nations system organizations reported on different aspects of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States through the task manager system. | See Committee for Development Policy work on vulnerability, World Bank/Commonwealth secretariat work on small States. | | Four regional meetings of Caribbean, African, Pacific island, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Atlantic Ocean small island developing States. |
| World Summit for Social Development | Upon the invitation of the Preparatory Committee, United Nations system organs and specialized agencies provided review reports and proposals for further action and initiatives. A total of 25 reports on specific issues were submitted to the Preparatory Committee. ILO organized an international consultation concerning the Summit follow-up. | Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in cooperation with Governments, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, organized expert meetings symposia and workshops on themes related to the World Summit for Social Development (value and market economies, socio-economic development in countries with economies in transition, globalization and employment). | | Regional commissions convened regional and subregional meetings and workshops on the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development outcome. Over 80 Governments submitted national reports on the implementation of the Summit outcome. |

| | *Contribution of United Nations system organizations to the conference reviews* | *Technical meetings* | *Modalities of civil society's involvement in the review* | *National and regional preparations* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fourth World Conference on Women | ACC adopted a statement on women and gender equality as an input to the five-year review of the outcome of the Beijing Conference. The Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality had the five-year review of the outcome of the Beijing Conference in its agenda. The Commission on the Status of Women was provided with a report on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for gender mainstreaming. Individual organizations reflected on their contributions to implementing the Beijing outcomes: for example, the Executive Board of UNICEF in January 1996 approved follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action in three priority areas (girls' education; health of girls, adolescents and women; women's rights and children's rights). | Expert group meetings were organized in the context of the Commission on the Status of Women work programme on the follow-up to the Beijing outcome. | WomenWatch Online working groups on the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action E/CN.6/2000/PC/CRP.1). Three thousand one hundred six representatives of non-governmental organizations will participate in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. | The five regional commissions convened regional meetings to review the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action or regional plans of action. One hundred forty-two Member States and two observers responded to the questionnaire of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. |
| United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) | Inter-agency consultations will be held in June 2000 to prepare the review and appraisal. | A number of meetings were held on the global campaign on secure tenure, urban governance, world charter on self-governance. | Several meetings were held with non-governmental organizations, local authorities and parliamentarians. | Regional meetings are being held. |

# Annex II

## Upcoming reviews of conferences

| | *Next review* | *Preparations envisioned thus far* | *Role of the Economic and Social Council in the review* |
|---|---|---|---|
| World Summit for Children | Special session of the General Assembly in 2001 to review achievements of the Summit goals (Assembly resolution 51/186) | Planning for a special session on children in 2001 includes a strong partnership with Governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, the media and young people themselves; it further entails the development of evaluations, studies and national and regional reviews to assess achievements made, constraints encountered and lessons learned from the decade.<br>A series of thematic debates are also being held, in addition to preparatory work in the Executive Board of UNICEF | Council has before it the report of the Executive Director of UNICEF |
| World Conference on Human Rights | No decision has been taken yet for the 10-year anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights in 2003 | — | — |
| International Conference on Population and Development | A second quinquennial review and appraisal are scheduled in 2004 | The members of the Commission will discuss the format of that review at a later session | Council may advise on format of the review at its substantive session of 2000 |
| Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States | Ten-year review in 2004 | | |
| World Summit for Social Development | Ten-year review in 2005 | | |
| Fourth World Conference on Women | Ten-year review in 2005 | | |
| United Nations Conference on Environment and Development | Ten-year review in 2002 | To be decided at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly | The report of the Commission on Sustainable Development containing proposals for the 2002 review is before the Council |
| United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) | Five-year review in 2001<br>Ten-year review in 2006 | See E/2000/62 | Coordination segment of the substantive session of 2000 |

| | *Next review* | *Preparations envisioned thus far* | *Role of the Economic and Social Council in the review* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries | 2001 | Intergovernmental preparatory committee, preceded by three regional meetings (General Assembly resolution 52/187) | |
| United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s | General Assembly review in 2002 | Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the United Nations Secretariat are jointly undertaking preparations.<br>An independent evaluation of the performance of the new agenda was requested by the Council | Coordination segment of the substantive session of 1999 on development of Africa; a high-level segment by 2002 on African development. |
| World Food Summit | FAO Committee on World Food Security will undertake, in 2006, a mid-term review of progress in reducing the number of undernourished to half their 1996 level no later than 2015.<br>The Committee on World Food Security also monitors the implementation of the World Food Security Plan of Action biennially starting September 2000. | | The outcome of the Committee on World Food Security review will be transmitted to the Council.<br>Council receives regular reports through the FAO Council on implementation of the Plan of Action as monitored by the FAO Committee on World Food Security. |

# Annex III

## Examples of quantified goals and targets adopted by international conferences of the 1990s and their five-year reviews

The present table highlights a number of quantified goals and targets adopted by the conference of the 1990s. It makes use of some goals listed in the United Nations common country assessment (CCA) and highlights a few more goals and benchmarks.

| *Area* | *Conference goals* |
|---|---|
| Poverty | Reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by the year 2015 with a view to eradicating poverty (draft outcome document, five-year review of WSSD, para. 24) (CCA) |
| **Food security and nutrition** | |
| Improved child nutrition | By the year 2000, a reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among children under five years of age by half of the 1990 level (WSSD, FWCW, WSC, WCN) (CCA), giving special attention to the gender gap in nutrition (FWCW) |
| Increased food security | Reduce number of chronically undernourished by half their 1996 level by 2015 (WFS) (CCA) |
| **Health and mortality** | |
| Improved health care | Universal accessibility of primary health care (by 2000) (WSSD, ICPD, FWCW, WFS, HfA) (CCA) |
| Reduction in levels of HIV/AIDS | Universal access to reproductive health services and information by 2015 (ICPD) (CCA)<br>By 2005, 90 per cent and by 2010, 95 per cent, of young women and men aged 15-24 will have access to information, education and services necessary to develop life skills required to reduce vulnerability to HIV infection; HIV infection rate in persons 15-24 to be reduced globally by 2005 (by 25 per cent in most affected countries), and by 2010 to be reduced globally by 25 per cent (ICPD + 5) |
| Reduced infant mortality | Reduction of infant mortality rates by one third of the 1990 level and below 35 per 1,000 by 2015 (ICPD, WSSD, FWCW, WSC, WFS, WCHR) (CCA) |
| Reduced child morality | Reduction of under-five mortality rates by two thirds of 1990 level by 2015/to below 45 per 1,000 live births by 2015 (CCA) (ICPD, WSSD, WSC) |
| Eradication and control of major diseases | Eradicate, eliminate or control major diseases constituting global health problems by 2000 (WSSD) |

| *Area* | *Conference goals* |
|---|---|
| Improved maternal health and reduced maternal mortality | Reduction of maternal mortality by one half of the 1990 level by 2000 and by a further half by 2015 (ICPD — with goals for countries with high/intermediate mortality; WSSD, FWCW, WSC) (CCA) |
| | By 2005, where the maternal mortality rate is very high, at least 40 per cent of all births should be assisted by skilled attendants; by 2010, this figure should be at least 50 per cent; and by 2015, at least 60 per cent. All countries should continue their efforts so that globally, by 2005, 80 per cent of all births should be assisted by skilled attendants; by 2010, 85 per cent; and by 2015, 90 per cent (General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex, para. 64) |
| Ensuring voluntary quality family planning services | By 2015, universal access to a full range of safe and reliable family planning methods and related reproductive health services that are not against the law (ICPD) (CCA). |
| | By 2015, all primary health care and family planning facilities to provide the widest achievable range of family planning/ contraceptive methods; essential obstetric care; and prevention/management of reproductive tract infections including sexually transmitted diseases, and barrier methods to prevent infection. By 2005, 60 per cent of such facilities should be able to offer this range of services, and by 2010, 80 per cent of them should be able to offer such services (General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex, para. 53). |
| | Close the gap between contraceptive use and proportion of those desiring to space/limit families by 50 per cent by 2005, 75 per cent by 2010 and 100 per cent by 2050 (General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex, para. 58). |
| **Education** | |
| Increased access to basic education | Universal access and completion of primary education by 2015 (EfA, WSSD, FWCW, WSC, ICPD, WEF) (CCA); by 2010, net primary school enrolment ratio for children of both sexes to be at least 90 per cent compared with 85 per cent in 2000 (General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex, para. 34) |
| | Close gender gap in primary and secondary school education by 2005 (WSSD, FWCW, ICPD) |
| | Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005 and achieve gender equality by 2015 (WEF) |
| Increased literacy | Adult illiteracy reduced to half of its 1990 level (WSSD, EfA, FWCW, WSC, UNCED) by 2015 (WEF) |
| | Halve the illiteracy rate for women and girls by 2005 compared with the rate in 1990 (General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex, para. 35 (c)) |
| **Other areas** | |
| Improved access to safe drinking water | Universal access to safe drinking water; full coverage of drinking water supply (by 2015) (FWCW, WSSD, UNCED, Habitat, HfA) (CCA) |
| Improved access to safe sanitation | Universal sanitary waste disposal (WSSD, FWCW, UNCED) (CCA) |

| *Area* | *Conference goals* |
|---|---|
| Environment | Complete national strategy for sustainable development that reflects the contributions and responsibilities of all parties by 2002 (UNCED + 5) |
| Improved drug control | Measurable results in reducing illicit cultivation, manufacture, trafficking and abuse of illicit drugs by 2008 (UNGASS on drugs) (CCA) (targets also by 2003 in area of legislation, strategies and programmes) |
| **Financing for development** | |
| Official development assistance (ODA) | Allocate 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for overall ODA (WSSD, FWCW and other conferences) and 0.15 per cent of GNP for ODA for the least developed countries (Paris Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, Habitat) |
| 20/20 initiative | Agreeing on a mutual commitment between interested countries to allocate 20 percent of ODA and 20 per cent of the national budget to basic social programmes (WSSD) |

*Note:* The following abbreviations are used:

| | |
|---|---|
| CCA: | common country assessment |
| EfA: | World Conference on Education for All |
| FWCW: | Fourth World Conference on Women |
| Habitat: | United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) |
| HfA: | Declaration of Alma-Ata on health for all |
| ICPD: | International Conference on Population and Development |
| ICPD+5: | five-year review of the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development |
| UNCED: | United Nations Conference on Environment and Development |
| UNCED+5: | five-year review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development |
| UNGASS on drugs: | twentieth special session of the General Assembly on countering the world drug problem |
| WCHR: | World Conference on Human Rights |
| WCN: | World Conference on Nutrition |
| WEF: | World Education Forum |
| WFS: | World Food Summit |
| WSC: | World Summit for Children |
| WSSD: | World Summit for Social Development |